

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (currently amended) An automatic keyword extraction apparatus, comprising:

a first extraction unit operable to extract ~~means for performing an extraction of a first keyword~~ from title character string information of contents ~~by using a first keyword dictionary in which a character string designating a sub-genre is registered; and~~

a second extraction ~~means for performing an extraction of~~ unit operable to extract a keyword from detailed character string information of ~~said the~~ contents ~~by using a second keyword dictionary in which names of persons are registered, and for performing an extraction of~~ and to extract a keyword by utilizing a character type separation method.

2. (currently amended) An automatic keyword extraction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first extraction ~~means unit extracts a~~ the first keyword from a portion within a title character string including a character string registered in ~~a~~ the first keyword dictionary and excluding a character string registered in a predetermined character string dictionary for exclusion.

3. (currently amended) An automatic keyword extraction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first extraction ~~means unit extracts as a~~ the first keyword a character string separated by a special character other than at least one of Hiragana, Katakana, a Chinese character, a numerical character and an alphabet letter from within a title character string which includes a character string registered in ~~a~~ the first keyword dictionary.

4. (currently amended) An automatic keyword extraction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said second extraction ~~means performs an extraction of a unit extracts a~~ keyword from a portion excluding a character string registered in a predetermined character string dictionary for exclusion by utilizing the character type separation method within a remaining portion of ~~said the~~ detailed character string information from which ~~the a keyword is~~ has been extracted by using ~~said the~~ second keyword dictionary.

5. (currently amended) An automatic keyword extraction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said second extraction ~~means unit~~ treats Katakana and an alphabet letter as the same character type ~~while when the~~ character type separation method is utilized and at the same time, treats "." (midpoint) as Katakana ~~or alphabet in a case when a letter just before is~~ Katakana or as an alphabet letter correspondingly when the letter just before is an alphabet letter.

6. (currently amended) An automatic keyword extraction apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising ~~means for~~ downloading said a downloading unit operable to download the second keyword dictionary via a network, wherein ~~said the~~ second extraction ~~means unit~~ uses ~~said the~~ downloaded second keyword dictionary.

7. (currently amended) An automatic keyword extraction method, comprising:

~~a first step for performing an extraction of~~ extracting a first keyword from title character string information of contents ~~by using a first keyword dictionary in which a~~ character string designating a sub-genre is registered; and

~~a second step for performing an extraction of~~extracting a keyword from detailed character string information of ~~said the~~ contents ~~by using~~ a second keyword dictionary in which names of persons are registered, and ~~for performing an extraction of~~extracting a keyword ~~by utilizing~~ a character type separation method.

8. (currently amended) An automatic keyword extraction method according to claim 7, wherein ~~a the first~~ keyword is extracted ~~in said first step~~ from a portion within a title character string including a character string registered in a the first keyword dictionary and excluding a character string registered in a predetermined character string dictionary for exclusion.

9. (currently amended) An automatic keyword extraction method according to claim 7, wherein a character string separated by a special character other than at least one of Hiragana, Katakana, a Chinese character, a numerical character and an alphabet letter is extracted as ~~a the first~~ keyword ~~in said first step~~ from within a title character string which includes a character string registered in ~~a the first~~ keyword dictionary.

10. (currently amended) An automatic keyword extraction method according to claim 7, wherein ~~it is performed in said second step to extract a keyword~~ is extracted from a portion excluding a character string registered in a predetermined character string dictionary for exclusion ~~by utilizing~~ the character type separation method within a remaining portion of ~~said the~~ detailed character string information from which the keyword has been ~~is~~ extracted ~~by using said the~~ second keyword dictionary.

11. (currently amended) An automatic keyword extraction method according to claim 7, wherein in ~~said the extraction of the second step~~keyword, Katakana and an alphabet letter are treated as the same character type ~~while when the character type separation method is utilized and at the same time, "." (midpoint) is treated as Katakana or alphabet in a case when a letter just before it is Katakana or~~ and is treated as an alphabet letter correspondingly when the letter just before is an alphabet letter.

12. (currently amended) An automatic keyword extraction method according to claim 7, ~~wherein further comprising a step for downloading said the second keyword dictionary via a network, wherein said the downloaded second keyword dictionary is used in said the step of extracting the second step~~keyword utilizing the character type separation method.

13. (currently amended) ~~In a program of an automatic keyword extraction apparatus, a~~ recording medium recorded with a program which can be read by a computer ~~wherein said program comprises~~ to perform an automatic keyword extraction process, the process comprising:

~~first extracting step for performing an extraction of a first keyword from title character string information of contents by using a first keyword dictionary in which a character string designating a sub-genre is registered; and~~

~~a second extracting step for performing an extraction of a keyword from detailed character string information of said the contents by using a second keyword dictionary in which names of persons are registered, and for performing an extraction of extracting a keyword by utilizing a character type separation method.~~

14. (currently amended) A ~~program making a computer which controls a system for performing an automatic keyword extraction apparatus execute process,~~ the system comprising:

a processor operable to execute instructions; and  
instructions for performing the automatic keyword extraction process, the process including:

~~a first extracting step for performing an extraction of a first keyword from title character string information of contents by using a first keyword dictionary in which a character string designating a sub-genre is registered; and~~

~~a second extracting step for performing an extraction of a keyword from detailed character string information of said the contents by using a second keyword dictionary in which names of persons are registered, and for performing an extraction of extracting a keyword by utilizing a character type separation method.~~

15. (New) An automatic keyword extraction apparatus, comprising:

a first extraction means for extracting a first keyword from title character string information of contents using a first keyword dictionary in which a character string designating a sub-genre is registered; and

a second extraction means for extracting a keyword from detailed character string information of the contents using a second keyword dictionary in which names of persons are registered, and for extracting a keyword utilizing a character type separation method.